

PATH Meeting

Minutes – 4/10/18, 11:30AM-1:30PM

Location: Carilion Giles Community Hospital

Present:

Michelle Brauns, co-convener
Kristie Williams
Patrick Giallorenzo
Susan Dalrymple
Marty Holliday
Ashley Hash
Juli Dellorso
Marsha Myers
Justin Santopietro
Joanna MacQueen
Mindy Thorpe
Rhonda Seltz

Dyana Williams
Holly Lesko
Pam Ray
Angie Nichols
Barbara Taylor
Margo Walter
James Pritchett
Mike Wade
Cathy Callahan
Deena Flinchum
Rebecca Marshall

Introductions: Michelle introduced herself and thanked Carilion Giles Community Hospital for providing the space and lunch for the day's meeting.

Virginia Democratic Candidate for 9th Congressional District: Justin Santopietro was introduced by Pam Ray who described Justin as “very thoughtful” and “a breath of fresh air.” Justin was born and raised in Blacksburg and left to attend George Washington University where he received his undergraduate degree in Political Science and his masters in Government Affairs. He worked on Capitol Hill for Minnesota Senator, Al Franken who held a position on the H.E.L.P. (Health, Education, Labor and Pension) Committee where Justin learned about healthcare policies. Justin then moved to a position in the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), and the Credit Union Association, where he worked on policies and bills. In 2016, Justin returned to Blacksburg and hoped to apply to work with the Clinton administration, but following the Clinton loss, Justin decided to run for Congress. Justin addressed several topical issues:

What are your thoughts on healthcare? Justin believes the healthcare issue is especially important in this Congressional District as there are two counties without hospitals. He suggests opening Medicare up for everyone to join. To do so, he suggests increasing the eligibility minimum and break it into 3 tiers: Tier 1- veterans (not meant to replace V.A.); Tier 2- move Medicaid to a federal level so there would be no issues of using insurance between states; and Tier 3 - offer a buy-in option for the public based on income. This would make a more simple and cost-effective system, giving everyone access to affordable healthcare. With these changes, all businesses would see a tax cut and employers would not be responsible for paying for employees' healthcare.

What are some of the other issues you're hearing about? Jobs and guns. Justin has seen quite a disconnect between what rural Americans need and what is voted on. He believes rural America needs more representation as advocates in Washington.

Related to the jobs issue, would you be willing to push for industrial hemp production in our area? Yes. Justin explained that industrial hemp (as well as marijuana and cannabis) has great earning potential in this area. He would like to see it regulated and taxed.

For Medicare to work well, members also need two private insurances: a drug plan and a supplemental. How would that work with your proposed plan? Justin stated that people who would be eligible based on income would have 100% coverage, eliminating the need for supplemental insurance(s).

There is currently a debate about how to pay for existing Medicare. What are your thoughts on how to fund existing Medicare? Instead of raising taxes on payroll (income), Justin suggests taxes on accumulated wealth and financial products.

Dyana Williams: Dyana is the Nurse Manager for the New River Health District. She shared some “exciting initiatives” the Health Department is working on relating to access/barriers to care, the opioid crisis, and stigma in healthcare. NRHD has recently partnered with the New River Valley Regional Jail to introduce an education course with the female inmates on health and family planning. They secured funding through Carilion for the program and are hoping to secure funding through Title X for long-term implementation.

Dyana shared that they secured funding from the state for an extended HIV/STD outreach program throughout the district. They are working on securing a mobile unit, which would assist in meeting patients where they are. The Health Department will provide pre/post counseling services, make referrals, and conduct limited treatment services. She shared that NRHD obtained a mobile unit for WIC (Women, Infants & Children) which will be used to meet with clients and provide education through programs such as Resource Mothers (for teen mothers), BabyCare (health care and nutrition for babies), and SCRIPT (smoking cessation).

Is substance abuse support offered in the jail education program? Because the program is in it’s infancy, currently it is not offered however, the Health Director has this as her goal.

Ashley Hash: Ashley shared that Carilion’s staff is working on the Community Health Assessment data collection. They are in the process of inputting the results. They did exceed their goal of collecting 1,000 surveys. They have already found 9 target groups in our area.

Margo Walter: Margo shared that NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) is trying to establish a chapter in our area; they are waiting to hear back from the national group. She distributed informational flyers on support groups held at Unitarian Universalist: one for persons living with mental illness and one for friends and families of persons living with mental illness. The groups meet the 3rd Monday of every month. Margot announced a free event at the Lyric for a showing of “Infinitely Polar Bear” on April 28 with a discussion panel to follow.

Workgroup updates:

Healthy New River Valley: Pam Ray shared that Healthy Kids/Healthy Citizens NRV has expanded to include Healthy Children, Healthy Families in Pulaski County in partnership with the Pulaski County Youth Center. They have also partnered with the YMCA to provide a summer youth feeding program to provide adequate food over summer break to families in need. She added that SNAP benefits will be accepted at the different local farmers markets and that NRHD’s WIC mobile unit will distribute excess produce from the markets.

Pam mentioned the efforts made to combat the opioid crisis including REVIVE training, upcoming Drug Takeback on April 28th, and Self-Management program with Agency on Aging. She also announced that NRHD’s Environmental Health just received access to radon testing kits available to NRV residents in need.

Lastly, she announced that the Academic Health Department with Virginia Tech's Center for Public Health and Research and NRVCS' Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance data was released during a well-attended community forum. The teens in attendance shared their thoughts about how they want to be heard, how bullying and home abuse is a problem, and how abstinence isn't the only way to teach sex education

Advocacy: Rhonda Seltz announced that either Congressman Griffith or Chief Deputy Morgan O'Quinn (from Griffith's office) will be attending the July PATH meeting. She also encouraged members to contact her with advocacy updates and issues to address.

PATHways Sharing:

Susan Dalrymple shared that Pulaski County United Way will be holding a festival on May 10th from 5-10PM which will include music and merchants.

Ashley Hash spoke about the Infant Safe Sleep program offered in Roanoke. They are looking for moms of 4-month old infants (+/-) who have a need (WIC, FAMUS, etc.). The program holds 1-hour sessions every other month. Anyone interested in obtaining referral forms can contact Ashley. She also shared that the Christiansburg Firehouse holds car seat checks from 4-6PM on the last Thursday of every month and the Christiansburg Rec. Center has an 8-week Falls Prevention program (Matter of Balance) for seniors (those interested should contact the Rec. Center for more information about enrollment).

Mike Wade distributed a calendar of NRVCS events and announced that May is Mental Health Month. Events include: May 8- NRVCS Floyd Clinic Open House, May 10- NRVCS Radford Open House and National Children's Mental Health Day (**WEAR GREEN**), May 17- The Face of Addiction is Mine event, and May 21- NRVCS Pulaski Center opening.

Michelle Brauns shared that the CHC in Dublin anticipates opening a dental center and they are hopeful to receive another grant to help with staffing.

Holly Lesko updated on behalf of New River-Mount Rogers Workforce Development Board. Tim Kaine and Todd Young will be presenting a Jobs Recovery Act in 2018 which will add alignment of treatment and job search services. She also spoke about a new grant whose focus is to address the economic effect of the opioid epidemic.

Rhonda shared that CHIP funding has been extended for 10 years in the federal budget.

**The Next PATH meeting is July 10, 2018 at Carilion NRV Medical Center
Montgomery Conference Room**